

# ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS HIRES CONSERVATOR

Juneau resident Ellen Carrlee has been named Conservator for the Alaska State Museums. Carrlee received her master's degree in art history and art conservation from New York University in 2000. She also studied at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Peabody Museum at Harvard, the Corning Museum of Glass and at the Harvard/Cornell archaeological excavations in Sardis, Turkey. Her publications include research on the effects of freezing ethnographic collections for pest control and the recent treatment to put the Montana Creek Fish Trap on exhibit (currently at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum).

For the past five years, Carrlee has been the Curator of Collections and Exhibits at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Asked why she made the change, she said, "This position at the Alaska State Museums is the only job in Juneau that I would leave the City Museum for. I went to graduate school for four years to be a conservator. The Alaska State Museums are the only museums in Alaska to have a conservator position, and I feel incredibly lucky that the opportunity arose."

Carrlee also ran a small-scale private conservation business, Carrlee Artifact Conservation Services, to continue doing minor treatments and learn more about Alaska artifacts. Carrlee has continued her education with coursework at the University of Alaska Southeast in Alaska Native anthropology, Northwest Coast art and culture, and studio courses on Northwest Coast carving and basketry.

A museum conservator's job is to provide technical expertise in the preservation of museum collections, including hands-on examination, treatment, and documentation of objects; maintaining a preventive conservation program to avoid damage to artifacts; and helping implement an emergency preparedness plan in case of disaster. As conservator at the Alaska State Museums, Carrlee will be responsible for the overall conservation of artifactual materials in the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The conservator decides and formulates original treatment plans or recommendations based on a thorough understanding of the existing physical, chemical, and biological conditions, both inherent and environmental.

Winter hours at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Winter hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge at both museums. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services in Juneau at 465-2901, or in Sitka at 747-8981 before the visit.

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